

# A BALANCE-SHEET OF VICTORY

**D**ECEMBER 1960. In face of the extermination policy pursued by the Americans and the Saigon quislings, South Viet Nam's various social segments came together in the National Front for Liberation to resist. In Washington, the US ruling circles, reviewing their global strategy, elected John Kennedy as president. The conquest of the Third World and the checking of the national liberation movement were to be the great concern of the US; the Kennedy-Taylor-Mac Namara team were going to lift into shape from the war machine which would enable Washington to attain its strategic ambitions, a machine up to the capacity of the US industrial and financial might.

In the minds of the men in Washington, Viet Nam was to serve as testing ground for all political, economic, and military aims; all the tactics elaborately devised by the specialized departments of the Pentagon. Everything from the powerful US arsenal had been experimented in Viet Nam, short of the atomic weapon which cannot be used on such theatre of operations.

For a decade now, the South Vietnamese people, led by the NFL, have successfully stood up to this colossal war machine. As early as December 1962, Kennedy had to witness the bankruptcy of his schemes; and late in 1964, Newsweek wrote that the Viet Nam war looked no more like a game between a cat and a mouse, but rather a confrontation between a lion and a tiger. Then Washington committed its air, sea, and land forces and resorted to the most objectionable means.

However, neither the South Viet Nam NFL and people on the whole, who had to experience the most excruciating, arduous, nor the DRVN which began only to embark on the socialist path, were shaken. It was the US war machine, and consequently all Washington's global strategy, which was thrown out of gear. The Tet 1968 general offensive and uprisings compelled the US command to give up once for all its offensive plans, and fall back on a purely defensive strategy. What was considered at the start to be a simple colonial expedition soon exerted a far-reaching influence on all facets of the American society, and touched off a crisis unprecedented in the history of the US.

Johnson was forced to and unconditionally the bankruptcy of the DRVN, and Nixon to proclaim the partial withdrawal of US troops. Through "Vietnamization," he is seeking at present to resolve this impossible equation: how to win with a minimum troop strength where a plottish expeditionary force was losing?

(Continued page 2)



NGUYEN HUU THO  
 Chairman of the South Viet Nam NFL and  
 the Advisory Council of the PRG of the RVN



HUYNH TAN PHAT  
 President of the Provisional Revolutionary  
 Government of the RVN

# TRISOMY 21

Hoang Thi Thu Th., a 3 years old girl, was born on December 7, 1967 in Quang Nam province (South Viet Nam) in a region exposed for years to chemical sprayings from American aircraft. Her parents having gone to North Viet Nam, this girl was in a position to be given medical examination in November 1970. The physicians saw a considerable growth stent, a pronounced muscular hypertonicity, an exaggerated laxity of articulations and especially a great mental retardation. She could obey simple commands such as:

opening her mouth, raising her hands, but not more complicated ones like holding out an object to her mother. Her language was very limited.

The culture of leucocytes showed important chromosomal changes and chiefly a case of Trisomy 21.

Everyone knows that chromosomes constitute the genetic support of living beings. Trisomy 21 is an aberration in the separation of homologous chromosomes and chromosomal alterations are at the bottom of congenital malformations, monstruities, hereditary pathological syndromes. One also understands that chemical substances can provoke chromosomal aberrations: the tragedy of thalidomide has brought the matter before the international public.

Medical observations have just revealed this terrible fact: apart from immediate damage, the so-called defoliants, dumped in great quantity for many years on South Viet Nam rural and hilly areas, provoke important chromosomal alterations in the local population. People drink water from rivers and streams and vegetable products poisoned by these "defoliants."

Clinically, there have been many miscarriages, congenital anomalies and frequent monstruities. The discovery of chromosomal alterations portends gloomy prospects: the future of many generations is at stake. Cancer, leucemia, monstruities are to be most dreaded. The victims

of toxic chemicals sprayed by the Americans, numbering by the millions, are condemned to the same fate as the survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic tragedy.

The chemical war which has hit many million hectares of cropland and woodland in South Viet Nam appears in all its horror.

It tries to starve millions of people by destroying all crops.

It makes all life impossible: there are whole areas where not a single blade of grass can grow, not a single bird's chirping is heard, and where even insects cannot be found.

It causes the destruction of the vegetable cover which brings about a terrible erosion, hence the devastating floods and a quick fertilization of the soil.

It poisons millions of people and provokes miscarriages and generates monstrous babies.

It even affects the human genetic patrimony. This is an aggression not only against the present-day life of the Vietnamese people, but also against their future.

Are the American rulers who try this chemical weapons aware of all these effects? The answer is but affirmative for it is precisely the American scientists who have conducted experiments on mice with one of these "defoliant" most frequently used in South Viet Nam.

(Continued page 10)

## US CHEMICALS SPRAYED IN NORTH VIET NAM

On December 6, 1970, the US sent a group of planes to spray noxious chemical substances on a populated area in Bo Trach district, Quang Binh province, causing many losses to the crops and cattle.

In a statement on Dec. 14, the spokesman for the DRVN Foreign Ministry sternly denounced this fresh US crime.

## Nixon's Dec. 10 Statement, a Provocation Against the Vietnamese People

Says DRVN delegation spokesman

The spokesman of the DRVN Government delegation to the Paris Conference on Dec. 11 said in a declaration that "the statement of Dec. 10, 1970 of Mr. Nixon constituted a provocation against the DRVN and the entire Vietnamese people and the most important encroachment upon the sovereignty of the peoples and the norms of international law."

Nixon wanted to make believe that the sole subject of the Paris Conference was to discuss the so-called "prisoners-of-war" problem, while stubbornly keeping complete silence on the question of ending American aggression, the statement pointed out. An extensive propaganda campaign on the "prisoners-of-war" problem has been staged by the US administration to mask its criminal

## A Balance-Sheet...

(Continued from page 1)

Bombings and chemical warfare were stopped up, the war extended to Cambodia and intensified in Laos. It was labour lost for the US.

On its part, the MPL successfully expanded its influence and kept the initiative of operations. In urban centres, new social forces joined in the nationwide popular effort. Beside the MPL, the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces was set up. The Provisional Revolutionary Government was formed. A mass figure speaks volume both of the magnitude of the American war and the momentum of the successes achieved in the free areas, nearly one million children go to classes most of the time held underground. With its political and military gains, the MPL, that the PBO, becomes the exponent of the independence of the whole nation, with its social and cultural accomplishments regarded under the deluge of fire and hardware, the free zone portends the South Viet Nam of tomorrow.

The balance-sheet to the last decade is as clear as daylight. The people's war has defeated the most formidable imperialist war machine of all times; the will for independence and freedom of a resolute people has held in check the best armed neo-colonialism; and man with his courage and creative initiative has got the better of the most deadly machine of humanity, his triumph over barbarism. Ruins, mourning, suffering and sacrifices cannot make it forget this balance-sheet of victory.

Let Nixon try the most heinous atrocities and more vicious threats, the Vietnamese people's will from North to South will remain unshaken. They will give life for life. They will win, and so will their brothers-in-arms, the Cambodians and Laos people, who are fighting for their own freedom and the freedom of their country.

## First Physicists' Symposium in the DRVN

The First Physicists' Symposium of the DRVN, held in Hanoi, was attended by nearly 600 delegates of researchers and lecturers on physics throughout North Viet Nam.

Prof. Nguy Ngu Kontum, President of the Viet Nam Physicists' Association, delivered a report on the development of this branch in Viet Nam during the past twenty years and its prospects.

The delegates heard 111 reports by scientists in such disciplines as: theoretical physics, physics of solids, nuclear physics, spectroscopy, radio-physics, geophysics, ultrasonics, and the teaching of physics. These reports included also papers by Vietnamese physicists living abroad. Prime Minister Pham Van Dong honoured the meeting with an address.

The symposium marked a new turning point of Vietnamese physical sciences.

Just like other scientific branches, physics in Viet Nam came to light only after the August 1945 Revolution.

As pointed out by the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the DRVN Government in their Appeal on Dec. 10, 1970, the DRVN is an independent and sovereign country, a member of the socialist camp. The territory, the airspace, and the territorial waters of the DRVN are inviolable. The Vietnamese people are resolved to mete out well-deserved punishment to any adventurist attempts of the Nixon administration encroaching upon their sacred national rights, the statement emphasized.

## The DRVN in Brief

• Responding to the appeal of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and DRVN Government, on December 11, 1970 the Viet Nam Fatherland Front issued a statement calling on the entire people to unite as one man and resolutely carry out President Ho Chi Minh's last instructions in order to stop up the resistance war against the US aggression till complete victory.

Political parties and mass organizations such as the Viet Nam Socialist Party, the Viet Nam Democratic Party, the CC of the Ho Chi Minh Labouring Youth Union, the Viet Nam Youth Federation, the Vietnamese Students' Union, the Vietnamese

## 95th Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Dec. 17, 1970)

## NIXON'S PLEAS DISMISSED BY MR XUAN THUY

Mr Xuan Thuy, head of the DRVN government delegation, rejected the justifications in Nixon's December 10 speech in which the US president arrogated to himself the right to bring war to North Viet Nam at any stage of protection of US recon plans and of GIs operating in South Viet Nam. Mr Xuan Thuy commented that such knowledge of the White

House master dreaming of a military victory would not pay, as the Vietnamese people would not readily be cowed by threats. "The US is now putting a spoke in the wheel of the Paris Conference and is contemplating to sabotage it totally," said Mr Xuan Thuy. "It must be held responsible for all ensuing consequences."

Women's Union, the Vietnamese Artists and Writers' Union, the Viet Buddhist Union, the National Catholic Relations Committee, also put out statements warmly responding to the above-mentioned appeal and expressing their determination to continue the anti-US effort and socialist construction despite the threats and naked aggression of the Nixon administration.

• On the occasion of the 10th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation (NFL), the Viet Nam Fatherland Front launched an appeal calling on the Vietnamese people and armed forces to keep up the struggle against US aggression.

The appeal said that in the new situation, the task facing the Vietnamese people was to intensify production, be combat-ready, consolidate national defence, enlist the support of the world people's

(Continued page 9)

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SEPT. 2, 1945 SEPT. 2, 1970

The D.R.V.N. is 25 years old

## LIFE AND MEN

ME Nguyen Thi Ngai, now 101, told me of the "troublesome time" of her life. At the age of 5, she was one of the refugees from the army 2 clashes between the French aggressors and the "Co Den (Black Flag) insurgents. Although her back was bent from age, she was far from being dilapidated. Two years ago, she still found enough strength to loosen the soil for growing vegetables. Last year, she was still able to do some needle work.

One time, I carried salt to the free zone to obtain money for the purchase of weapons. I was a tough and dangerous job. I had several close shaves. I will remember once the enemy troops found the underground trench where some of my comrades and I were hiding. They set off a mine and suddenly I occupied unscathed.

Early in 1967, I was appointed head of a production brigade which is now the most outstanding one of Ve hamlet. It was very difficult at first. I had got through only primary education. The organization and division of work as well as the distribution of the income was rather complex, but I gradually managed to get used to it. There was no lack of helping hands.

"During the years of resistance to the US war of aggression, I was made political instructor of a militia platoon. I participated in shooting down US aircraft with rifle fire at the village. We were busy round-the-clock with the fighting, production and domestic chores. On many occasions, I had to have my meals brought out. My husband was away. Granddad helped by looking after my children. Many times, when the air alert was sounded, I had no time to take my little children to the shelter, then with my rifle rushed towards the combat position. I scored good points in target practice."

Mme Chien (the wife of Vomg, head of the auditing committee of the co-op at Dia hamlet) was a former guerrilla credited with distinguished services during the anti-French Resistance. She was wounded in both her arms and her legs in the October 3, 1953 battle. After the re-establishment of peace, they decided to award her a victory badge. She recalled at that time she had felt very shy when asked by the village administration to report on her achievements.

"I was an only child, people used to criticize my parents for letting me join the guerrilla team, she told me with a candid smile.

In this sustained revolutionary effort, the men and women of Nam Hong have undergone all kinds of tests and become tempered. They advance on the same pace as the revolution and the younger generation takes the place of the older one. Pham Tuan, the first secretary of the village Party Committee who was responsible for the building of the revolutionary foundation and leading the inhabitants of Nam Hong in the early years of the Revolution, had

now retired after years of action and office. Doan Tuyen, the youth Party secretary whom I met 5 years ago, had been transferred to another post. A resourceful and experienced cadre, he had assumed many responsibilities: guerrilla fighter, head of a Party cell, village chief, member of the District Party Committee, member of the District Administration, head of the District Education Department, head of the District Health Department, head of the District Finance Department, Secretary of the Village Party Committee, head of the District Worker-Peasant Committee, Worker-Education School. Tuyen was born in 1926. An orphan at the age of 19, he had to hire himself as a servant. He joined the Revolution at the end of 1944, and not until August 1946 could he attend continuation classes to finish his primary education. Hei Van, 30, the newest and 11th village Party secretary, took over this function 4 years ago when the war was at its fiercest.

That was the process of development of cadres of the older generation who had grown up through revolutionary activity and work. Young men and women, born under the new regime usually received their education at national and other schools. They are the workers at the repair workshop, technical agents at the co-op, young school teachers or assistant doctors and nurses at the village clinic. Nam Hong has also some of its children in various colleges or middle technical schools in the country: the number is 15 and 38 respectively.

BEFORE the August 1945 Revolution, not one school could be found in this village, except for an old scholar with a few disciples. The village was 95% illiterate. Only a few children of well-to-do families could afford to go along with their parents to a strict or province school. Two of the villagers who had got "Certificates of Franco-Vietnamese Primary Education" were the pride of the whole canton. The certificates were framed and prominently hung up.

Today, everybody knows how to read and write, except for a few old aged and children under school-age. The village now has 15 pre-school classes accommodating 42 children. A primary school (21 classes) with 943 pupils, and a junior secondary school (8 classes) with 410 pupils. Hundreds of other young girls and boys from Nam Hong have enrolled in the district secondary school.

It is the same thing in the medical field. Before the August Revolution, there was not a single physician or a midwife at Nam Hong. Instead, the village had two female mediums, two fortune

tellers, twenty sorcerers and seven witch-doctors to "fight diseases" and save the sick from ghosts and evil spirits. Broken glasses or dirty sickles were used to cut the umbilical cords of new-born babies (the village museum still preserved the sickle which severed the umbilical cord of the baby of Mme Kien of Doan hamlet). Tetanus and bronchitis took a heavy toll of innocent children. During a cholera epidemic, hundreds of villagers died.

The village health service was organized only after the re-establishment of peace. The contingent of newly-trained health cadres had been growing little by little. At the end of 1954, a young villager was sent to a provincial crash course and returned after 3 months to work as a nurse. In 1955, one more nurse and two midwives were trained; in 1956, a nurse and a midwife were added to the list. It was until 1957 that the village health committee was officially set up alongside the establishment of a body of sanitarians in various hamlets; in 1958, there were 3 more nurses and one more midwife; in 1959 the village infirmary built and 3 newly-trained nurses and an equal number of midwives joined the contingent of health workers. In 1960, the village had two medical workers specialized in TB and trauma. In the same year, a village nurse followed a 3-year course for assistant doctors. In 1961, a midwife received a similar training. Today, Nam Hong has four assistant doctors and fifteen nurses and midwives.

I went past the infirmary at night fall. In the electric light, the white-bloused physician was attending to his patients. Suddenly, I thought of the altar of for-pardon, with a sorcerer clad in his black robe performing some mumbo-jumbo in the dim light of burning candles and incense sticks.

(Continued page 9)



Digging an irrigation ditch at Nam Hong

# A DECADE OF SUCCESSFUL STRUGGLE (1960-1970)

## Chronology (2nd Part)

FROM JUNE 1965 TO DECEMBER 1969

**1965**

**February 24:** NFL success at Nha Do - Hong Trang.

**March 5:** New battles at Bau Hang.

**June 2:** Johnson directly committed US troops to the fighting.

**July 1:** Thieu Ky toppled the Phan Hai Cabinet in Saigon.

**July 10:** NFL attack on Bien Hoa airbase.

**August 18:** First NFL victory over US troops at Van Tuong; over 500 GIs put out of action.

**October-November:** From Oct. 19 to Nov. 10: Fleeting battle over 2,000 GIs and puppet soldiers wiped out.

**Oct. 27:** Onset on Nuoc Man airfield (Da Nang).

**Nov. 22:** Bau Hang battle; 2,000 GI casualties.

**US first dry-season counter-offensive:** (November 1965 to March 1966) US and puppet forces attacked in 5 directions: northwest, southwest of Saigon, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, towards Barta, aiming at breaking the backbone of NFL regular units. Coupled with that military campaign, Washington launched on Dec. 28 a "peace" offensive with a 4-point "peace" plan.

**1966**

**January:** Resumption of US bombardments of the DRVN after a temporary suspension.

## FIGHTING SOUTH VIET NAM'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

373 delegations were sent abroad including delegations of the South Viet Nam NFL (now the PRG) and of its affiliated organizations, visiting other countries and attending international conferences.

The Republic of South Vietnam entertaining diplomatic relations with 35 countries: the Soviet Union, the PR of China, Cuba, the DPR of Korea, the GDR, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Mongolia, Algeria, the UAR, Cambodia, Jordan, Syria, Tanzania, Mauritania, the DPR of Yemen, Iraq, Mali, Congo (D), Caylon, Yugoslavia.

A special representation of the Republic of South Viet Nam has been functioning in the DRVN.

15 major parties and fronts which are not in power and to international and national organizations have recognized the South Viet Nam NFL formerly and the PDG, today, as the genuine and legal representatives of the South Viet Nam people.

Membership of international organizations' central committees:

- The World Council of Peace (WCP)
- The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)
- The World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY)
- The International Union of Students (IUS)
- The International Association of Journalists (IAJ)
- The Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization (AAPSO)
- The Afro-Asian Latin Amer-

ican Peoples' Solidarity Organization

The Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF)

The International Teachers' TU.

Participation in 31 important international conferences including:

- The Third Congress of WFTU in Moscow (Nov. 5, 1965)
- The Congress of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) in Budapest (March 31, 1966)
- The International Scientific Symposium in Peking (Aug. 20, 1966)
- The Congress of WCP in Helsinki (July 1965)
- The Congress of Afro-Asian Latin American Peoples' Solidarity Organization in Cuba (October 1965)
- The 5th Congress of the WIDF in Finland (June 1966)
- The Conference of IADL in Belgium (February 1966)
- The Conference of WFDY in support of the Indonesian peoples in France (July 1966)
- The Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries in Lusaka (September 1966)
- Many countries have set up committees of solidarity with the South Vietnamese people.
- Over twenty commissions of investigation and denunciation of the US imperialists' and quisling's crime in South Viet Nam.

**29:** US bombings of Hanoi and Haiphong periphery.

**30:** 43 US armoured vehicles wiped out at Cam Le.

**July 17:** President Ho Chi Minh called on the entire people to resist US aggression.

**August 5:** Nixon visited Saigon.

**September 3:** An Khe airfield stormed.

**11:** Phoney elections to the Saigon "National Assembly."

**October 1:** NFL delegation set up in Cairo.

**16:** Johnson visited South Viet Nam.

**27:** Demonstrations in over 100 American cities and in West Europe against Washington's war policy.

**April:** Many NFL attacks against US military installations in Saigon area, Pleiku airfield (High Plateaux).

**US bombings stepped up in both zones of Viet Nam.**

**29:** the 1,000th US plane downed in North Viet Nam.

**May 20:** NFL carried the day at Pleikhang (High Plateaux), 2,000 puppet soldiers demonstrated against the US in Saigon.

**June 1:** Hue students burnt US consulate.

**4:** 4,000 American intellectuals denounced cessation of US aggression in Viet Nam.

**1967**

**January:** Anti-war demonstrations in many American universities.

**February:** Many NFL offensives against US bases, particularly around Saigon.

**From Feb. 22 to March 15:** US operation Junction City opened in Tay Ninh province involving 45,000 men; 11,000 GIs put out of action, 900 armoured vehicles destroyed.

**March:** Many NFL assaults on US bases at Qui Nhon, Da Nang and in the Western High Plateaux.

**15:** Bunker replaced Cabot Lodge as US ambassador in Saigon.

**20:** Johnson met Thieu, Ky at Gaesai.

**April:** NFL stormed enemy positions in Quang Tri and Quang Nam provinces. End of US counter-offensive: 175,000 GIs and puppet troops put of action.

**15:** Important anti-war demonstrations in New York and San Francisco.

**May 2:** First session of the Bertrand Russell Tribunal held in Stockholm (Sweden). NFL raid on Lang Vay (Khe Sanh), Bien Hoa, Da Nang, Hue.

**23:** Major Buddhist demonstration in Saigon.

**June 24:** Big battle at Dakto (Western High Plateaux).

**July:** NFL attack on Duc Co (High Plateaux), Dong Ha, near the 17th parallel and US base near Saigon.

**August:** Extraordinary session of NFL Central Committee.

**4:** Johnson decided to send 50,000 troops to Viet Nam as reinforcements.

**September:** NFL published its political program.

**12:** Science faculty students walked out in Saigon.

**17:** 137 well-known American intellectuals decided not to pay the 10% additional tax in protest against the Viet Nam war.

**29:** In San Antonio, Johnson said he was bent on winning the war.

**October:** NFL hammered at Hue area and Quang Nam.

**Many anti-war demonstrations in the US.**

**November:** First week: Important NFL gain at Dakto - 31,000 GIs and puppet troops wiped out.

**6:** Saigon workers downed tools.

**21:** Second session of the Bertrand Russell Tribunal held at Roskilde (Denmark).

**December:** Many NFL actions near the 17th parallel and around Saigon.

**January:**

**16:** Women demonstrated near the US Congress building.

**19:** Clifford replaced Mc Namara.

**31:** NFL mounted offensives and uprisings in 120 cities and towns in South Viet Nam. The Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces came into being in Hue.

**February:**

**1:** NFL flag hoisted over Hue. In Saigon, people's forces hit many positions, occupied many quarters. The Alliance of National and Peace Forces was founded.

**The battle in Saigon was to last 17 days and at Hue 4 weeks.**

**7:** At Khe Sanh, PLAF men captured Lang Vay post.

**March:** NFL operations continued.

**22:** Westmoreland relieved from his post as commander-in-chief.

**31:** Johnson was obliged to order a limited bombing and to announce he would not run for President.

**April:**

**10:** Abrams took the place of Westmoreland and applied the US new defensive strategy.

**20:** At the national congress of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic, and Peace Forces (born of the merging of local organizations in Saigon, Hue and other towns), Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao was elected president.

**May 5:** NFL stormed 53 urban centres.

**13:** Paris Conference opened in Paris between the US and DRVN.

**June 19:** Thieu decreed general mobilization.

**July 9:** US troops evacuated Khe Sanh.

**August:** New anti-war demonstrations in the US.

**PLAF men hammered at many US bases.**

**September:** NFL onsets in Western High Plateaux, Da Nang.

**October:** NFL attacks in Tay Ninh and Dakto.

(Continued page 7)

## South

O South!  
Our suffering  
Planted in our hearts  
Like a bruised tree,  
Hands and leaves  
Clenched  
On the same refusal.

Brothers of the mud,  
Obscured of hunger,  
Bombs dig away  
Into your fields and your flesh.  
But in the evening  
You read  
From the book of life.

No demented mill  
Can till the grain.  
The light in the forest  
Can never be smuffed out  
O South!  
Crucified  
And over reborn.

If there is a line  
To plant rice in peace,  
If there is a line  
To better trade routes,  
And build houses,  
No line  
Shall divide our Fatherland.

Vinh Linh,  
Crossroads of miseries,  
Shall unite our hands of land-tillers,  
On the sun of our flags  
The same star shines,  
Which Ho Chi Minh lighted,  
And is still lighting.

Ben Tre, Hanoi, Cam Tho,  
Saigon of the night,  
Our rivers and our mountains  
Share the same destiny,  
The stream of History,  
Where a clan ban sings,  
Flows from North to South.

A same revolt,  
The colour of our blood,  
Demands freedom  
For the peoples of the world.  
O South!  
Thrashing in our hearts.

BACH LUEN  
December 20, 1970

THE buffalo-drawn cart had completed its preparations and was to set out at nightfall. A peasant woman of uncertain age and with a solid build sat in the driver's seat. She readily agreed when Lan limped toward the cart and asked for a lift to Thanh Tan. She was even more affable when she knew that the young man was an acquaintance of Miss Zieu's.

"Going to Thanh Tan, to see her? Don't you know that she is the teacher of my brother?"

The woman gave a flip over the horns of the beasts, then went on:

"I came from Long An. I was injured during a battle against the Yanks on the outer perimeter. After nearly a month in hospital, I am returning today to my unit. I am carrying a letter for Miss Zieu, from her brother."

The woman gave a flip over the horns of the beasts, then went on:

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head. The cart entered a wind-swept boundless ocean. The buffaloes breathed noisily in shaking their horns. The dry thumping of their hoofs hammered the drought-checkered soil patiently. The night sky got clearer and clearer because of the stars that multiplied, of the shells shot up from enemy posts, and of the helicopters with their searchlights sweeping the plain with their luminous shafts. Lan could make out the rat-tat-tat of machineguns mingled with the

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## ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION VISITS THE DRVN

**A**t the invitation of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, a delegation of the Italian Communist Party paid a friendship visit to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam from November 27 to December 12, 1970.

The Delegation consisted of Gian Carlo Palletta, member of the Political Bureau and the leading Committee of the Party and Head of the Delegation; Vincenzo Galeffi, member of the Central Committee and Secretary of the Party's Bologna Federation; Franco Colaninno, Senator, and Emilio Sorci Amodeo, Editor of *Unita*, central organ of the Italian Communist Party.

It was received by Le Duan, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the VNWP, and held cordial talks with a delegation of the VNWP led by Nguyen Duy Trinh, member of the Political Bureau. The two delegations exchanged information and views on the situation in the two countries, the strengthening of the friendly relations between the two Parties and the intensification of the popular movement in Italy in support of the patriotic anti-US resistance of the Vietnamese people, and for the establishment of normal relations between the Italian Republic and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

A communique was issued on these talks, saying among other things that in the spirit of determination and struggle which inspired the Appeal of December 10, 1970 of the Central Committee of the VNWP and the DRVN Government, Italian communists would redouble their efforts to make an internationalist contribution to the action of the socialist camp, of the anti-imperialist forces and the peoples to the world to condemn the US imperialists resolutely and stop their criminal hands. In its tour of the DRVN the Delegation of the Italian Communist Party could see everywhere the unshakable will of resistance and fight of workers, militiamen, army-men, and the entire Vietnamese people, as well as their readiness to repel and break any new attack plotted by the US aggressors, the communique pointed out.

The delegation of the VNWP noted that Italian support for Viet Nam had become more and more massive, based on a growing unity of the different strata of the masses in Italy, and that it included more and more of the forces of the Italian Catholic movement. It also held the view that the fight waged by the Communist Party, the working class and the people of Italy for peace, democracy and social progress in Italy constituted a positive contribution to the common struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism in the world.

## INTENSIFIED US AGGRESSION AGAINST LAOS DENOUNCED

**I**n a Statement dated December 11, the DRVN Foreign Ministry denounced the "new and very serious steps" taken by the US imperialists in their war of aggression in Laos.

The Nixon administration, the statement pointed out, has deployed its modern air forces, especially the B.52s, in massive bombings, of an extermination character against the Lao territory. Only the past 30 days, 63,000 tons of bombs of various types were dropped, inflicting considerable civilian

casualties. At the same time, it has sent into Laos 5 battalions of the puppet Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique, a dozen battalions of the Thailand mercenaries and is actively preparing to throw Saigon puppet troops into combined operations in Laos. On US orders, the Vietnamese administration has launched repeated encroachments on areas controlled by the Lao Patriotic Forces in Lower Laos, the Plain of Jars—Xiang Khoang area and many other areas deep in the liberated zone of Laos.

## Saigon Troops' Rampaging in Cambodia Unpalatable Even to Phnom Penh

**T**HE Lon Nol Foreign Ministry sent on December 5 a note to the Saigon puppet embassy in Phnom Penh demanding that Saigon puppet troops stop burning Cambodian homes, reported AP. Indeed, Saigon troops' brutalities have shocked even Phnom Penh army-men.

The same source quoted Brigadier General Sosthene Fernandez, Commander of Military

Area Two (south and southwest of Phnom Penh) as complaining on December 6 that if his forces had enough weapons, they would make a better show without help from the Saigon puppet army. "South Vietnamese troops rape, they destroy houses, they steal, they loot pagodas and they beat Buddhist monks," he said, adding that such rampaging by Saigon troops "alienates the Cambodian population."

## WORLD SCIENTISTS CONDEMN US CHEMICAL WAR

The following resolution was adopted on Dec. 12 by the International Conference of Scientists on the Chemical War in Viet Nam held at Orsay, Paris:

**T**HE International Conference of Scientists from fourteen countries, which was organized under the auspices of the World Federation of Scientific Workers and held at Orsay on December 12, 1970, has studied new information concerning the magnitude of the chemical war conducted by the armed forces of the United States against the Indochinese peoples.

The use of these chemical products has been increased incessantly since 1961 despite a worldwide protest. Among these chemicals are defoliants and herbicides, particularly the 2-4-D and the 2-4-5-T (the latter is known to contain a very noxious impurity—the dioxine) and the CS toxic gases.

The defoliants and herbicides have been used in doses much higher than in agriculture, and in such conditions their effects are much greater than are usually seen in agriculture.

There has been ample proof today that the defoliants and herbicides directly affect the human beings and the fauna. One has every reason to think that exposure to the defoliants can also generate great troubles and genetic lesions.

Experiments made on laboratory animals have formally established the fact that the 2-4-D, the 2-4-5-T and the dioxine provoke certain teratological effects and important internal modifications which are very likely to harm the transmissible patrimony.

The first clinical observations presented by Vietnamese doctors suggest a direct relation between the exposure of the population to defoliants and the grave dangers, not yet assessed, which this type of warfare might cause to the present and future generations.

The proof of the direct effects of these defoliants on food plants, forests and the whole vegetation is unquestionable. They result in a generalized famine and immense sufferings among the civilian population whose mode of living is thus profoundly upset. Their long-term effects can bring about a deep disorder, which is very likely to be irreversible, of the ecology, the soil and the climate in vast areas of Viet Nam.

As far as toxic gases are concerned, it is evident that the way they are used in Viet Nam they have had long-term toxic effects. Their mortal effect has been established, and large numbers of people have fallen victims to it.

There is no doubt that the armed forces of the United States have used Viet Nam as test-ground for chemical warfare.

The magnitude of the losses in human lives and the effects of all sorts on the nature make it possible for one to draw the conclusion that one is faced with a genocide coupled with a bioicide.

We, the participants to the Conference, reaffirm our conviction that the use of these products constitutes a flagrant violation of the regulations formulated in the 1925

Geneva Protocol and consecrated by the Resolution of December 10, 1969 of the United Nations.

We urge immediate cessation of the use of chemical agents in war.

We condemn the veritable perversion of science and technology which include the massive and illegal manufacture, development and utilization of these products against the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

We hail the courageous stand of the various scientific circles in the United States against the use of chemical weapons in Indochina. We appeal to our colleagues in the United States and other countries to realize the tragedy and thus to join us in a worldwide protest against the use of defoliants and the other noxious chemical substances.

In face of the terrible upsetting of the ecology in Viet Nam, the magnitude of which is beyond man's imagination, we appeal to all scientific organizations in the world, particularly those affiliated to the World Federation of Scientific Workers, to join efforts to organize in diverse and appropriate forms an efficacious assistance to the Vietnamese people, and to study more profoundly the effects of the toxic chemicals used in this war, as well as the means to combat them.

Because all the crimes perpetrated by the armed forces of the United States have their origin in the war of aggression they are conducting at present, we energetically demand the United States to put an end to this war and withdraw completely and unconditionally their troops from Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

Only at this price can righteousness and justice be safeguarded.

Over twenty higher education establishments have opened and trained thousands of physics teachers for secondary schools and intermediate vocational schools, thousands of engineers and cadres for fundamental theory. A number has been sent abroad for post graduate studies and some of them have taken master's and doctors degrees in sciences.

The higher education establishments are also physical research centres, especially

A child hit by congenital malformation



## SAIGON'S ECONOMIC TRICKS

(Continued from page 10)

tax-control campaign will be launched for four weeks to severely punish fraud, false statements, etc." (*AFP*, Oct. 16).

In 1969, when "Vietnamization" began, tax-raising measures hit the customs, equalization taxes and "austerity" taxes on 1,500 commodities. Nguyen Van Thieu told a *UPI* correspondent (July 10, 1970) what he thought: "All citizens has his responsibilities towards the state against tax evasion. If we constantly rely on our allies, we shall lose our national pride. Thus the US government is resolute to shift the whole responsibility for the war to the Vietnamese side in order to lighten the burden which weighs on the shoulders of the American people, but this requires time."

In the name of this "national pride," the State's taxation was started on the tax-payers: from 11.5 billion in 1965 the tax-income reached 67 billion in 1969 and 97 billion in 1970.

As war expenditure is skyrocketing, an inflation described by the Western press as "galloping" has come to stay. No doubt that it will take fantastic proportions in months to come.

However the 20 per cent wage boost is immediately followed by a more considerable rise in the cost of living, which was already 45 per cent higher in July 1970 compared with August 1969. Prices continue to soar and the income of wage-earners are reduced proportionally to such an extent that the cost of living in the puppet administration is anxious for what they have accumulated during the war. In the end the wage-cut reduces its "recipients" to utter misery owing to the

(Continued from page 2)

serve production, while not neglecting theoretical science.

—Scientific and technical personnel should be trained and scientific research institutions be fruitfully established.

—Science and technology should be popularized among the masses, its development, innovations and inventions be given a strong impetus and the considerable strength of the masses be called on to develop science and technology.

Over twenty higher education establishments have opened and trained thousands of physics teachers for secondary schools and intermediate vocational schools, thousands of engineers and cadres for fundamental theory. A number has been sent abroad for post graduate studies and some of them have taken master's and doctors degrees in sciences.

The higher education establishments are also physical research centres, especially

price-hike and subsequent

It is fair to say that Saigon has sought to remedy this inconvenience by granting to military-men and functionaries' families loans totalling three billion piasters taken from "lottery for construction". But this aim proves quite insufficient and risky owing to the concomitant setting up of funds for "people's investments," "insurance" for "national aid," etc. Calls for "lottery" were made for the building of villages for "invalids," "orphans," "assistance to war victims," etc. Saigon furthermore has announced the issue of loans, stock exchange shares, etc.

To attract capitals, a 10 to 20 per cent interest rate is granted to bank deposits, as prices go up 60 per cent per year.

Such are the economic measures taken by Saigon. They are incapable of improving the catastrophic situation in the areas controlled by the puppet administration, for they do not affect the causes and appear to be a device of a doubtful efficiency.

The prolongation of the war demands at last on US aid, without which the regime cannot survive a single day. The American tax-payer is however fed up with that charged government which gives Washington a pretext to carry on the war. The 35 billion dollars spent a year for this simple myth only bring setbacks on the US.

By "Vietnamization" the war, the White House is heading for a disaster. A war cannot be won by proxy, and the reality of the quagmire is being gauged only by dollars from US aid.

The Hanoi University, the Polytechnic College and the Theoretical Physics Teachers' College. All technical schools practically applied physics research centres. In addition, many research institutes and centres devoted to this branch have been set up under the State Scientific and Technical Committee, ministries and enterprises, especially the Institutes of Physics.

A scientific lesson for scientific vulgarization and exchange of up-to-date achievements in physics has been prepared. The State Scientific and Technical Committee has published a Russian English-Vietnamese lexicon of about 20,000 entries of physical scientific terminology, hundreds of courses, textbooks and reference works for use in higher education establishments, scientific magazines, such as the *Mathematics-Physics* magazine and other periodicals and bulletins circulated in the scientific circles.

The publishing of books and periodicals, the establishment of libraries, holding of

## The DRVN in Brief

(Continued from page 2)

denounce the US scheme to prolong the war by means of "Vietnamization" and attacks on the North to seek a way out of their South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos quagmires.

• Recently, the Thai Binh branch of the Faculty of Medicine held a commencement for its first batch.

292 doctors in 18 specialties were graduated of whom 35% were women, 33% students of Southern origin and 7% nationality nationalists.

Before their admission to the school, they were experienced medical and women working in various provinces.

• On the occasion of Beethoven's 200th birth anniversary, a spirit sponsored by the Viet Nam Peace Committee, the Culture Ministry, the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Vietnamese Composers' Association was held on December 14, in Hanoi.

Beethoven's works performed by Vietnamese artists included sonatas, a romance, a trio, a string quartet, an overture and a symphony.

• On December 9, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party sent a congratulatory message to the 20th Congress of the Uruguayan Communist Party.

(Continued from page 3)

## A SHORT HISTORY...

wells have been sunk and bathrooms and double septic tanks built next to these new houses, which the unknown before. In many families, I could notice some wood furniture, radio sets, bicycles, and even a television set. No longer formerly even rich families could not own.

As their living standards have been improved day by day, backward customs and habits have been discarded. For instance, the established rituals for the organization of funerals are no longer observed. No rites, no funeral feasts are required to show

one's piety towards one's parents. Nobody should be annoyed in debt all his life as result of his parents' death. Like all other DRVN villages, Nam Hong can look forward to the future with confidence.

## First Physicists' Symposium...

meetings and symposiums have given rise to a movement of study and research among physicists who also take part in the mass popularization of theoretical physics as well as up-to-date scientific achievements such as man-made satellites, cosmic ships, etc.

This dissemination is carried out by means of newspapers, magazines, scientific reviews, scientific books as well as talks at scientific vulgarization centres. Consequently the masses' scientific and professional standards have been improved and as a result, physics has been given a strong fillip. The physicists have carried out researches for the good of production, the people's welfare and the fighting.

Spectroscopy was the first to develop (1960). It is now modernly equipped and adequately staffed. Its personnel has been able to analyse the quality and quantity of metals contained in ores and in manufactured products.

Research on physics of solids dates back to 1960. Ferrites successfully experimented in laboratories have been mass-produced since 1964.

The formation of the group of researchers on semi-conductors in 1962 was followed by theoretical and practical researches and the production of selenium rectifiers and diodes of minor power, etc. The team of researchers on dielectricity has been studying insulating resins and a kind of resin with a high breakdown potential developed by them has been manufactured.

Nuclear physicists have measured the fall-out in the air, sediments, water and foodstuffs to collect data for investigation on radio-active contamination in Viet Nam. They have also conducted analyses by the radio-active method and observed the action of radiations to prevent the germination and putrefaction of sweet potatoes.

With regard to elementary particles, the cadres of the State Scientific and Technical Committee and of the Hanoi University have undertaken studies on the properties of neutron resilient dielectrics and have gathered data and theoretical analyses.

Many members of the theoretical physicists' team have published papers in foreign scientific reviews, which represent some modest contribution to theoretical science as well as to production and national defence.

The geophysical group set up in 1959 has been busy with the "measurement" of fall-out in the air, rain water, sediments, salts; the observation of artificial satellites, etc.

The results of these researches are still limited. But, for our physics team, the trail has been blazed. And in this respect, this first symposium is that of confidence. It augurs well for the future.

## NFL CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND PRG RESPOND TO VNWPCC AND DRVN GOVERNMENT APPEAL

THE Central Committee of the South Viet Nam NFL and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on Dec. 15 made public a statement responding to the Appeal of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

"Viet Nam is one, the Vietnamese nation is one," The Statement stressed. "Independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam are inseparable and sacred national rights of the Vietnamese people. The US must stop for ever all its acts against the DRVN, withdraw totally and unconditionally the US troops and the troops of its satellites from South Viet Nam, cut off its Thieu-Ky-Hiem warlike henchmen, let the South Vietnamese people settle themselves their internal affairs."

## MILITARY OPERATIONS

TRUNG BO (ex-Annam)

### Phu Yen province:

On Dec. 2, PLAF men stormed the Phuc Tan military sector, Tuy An district, obliterating its CP, the command of "Boo An" Unit No 3/11, destroying the signal centre, putting out of action 6 puppet platoons of artillery, mortars, transmission, "Boo an" and scouts; the enemy took over 300 casualties including the district chief and 15 American "advisors."

### Rhinh Hoa province:

On December 1, regional PLAF assaulted the puppet troops at Xuan Vinh, Ninh Hoa district: "Boo an" company, 1 "dan ve" platoon, 4 "pacification" teams and a "dan ve" command wiped out, 2 "pacification" teams badly damaged.

### Binh Thuan province:

Night of Nov. 28 and 29, PLAF men hammered at an enemy position at Ta Don, Gop post, and an enemy rescue party: 350 enemy casualties (including 2 companies).

NAM BO (ex-Lachinhua)

### Tay Ninh province:

On Dec. 4, PLAF attacked Ban Don military sector, 22km southeast of the provincial capital: 200 enemy troops, 155mm gun and 12 barracks put out of commission all the policemen in the sector liquidated.

### Ca Mau province:

On the night of Dec. 2 and on Dec. 4, regional PLAF raised Kien Cong highpost post, Tran Van Thon district, and a group of Battalion 2 in Song Doc district: 4 company of Battalion 3, Regiment 31, wiped out, and 2 battalions of Regiment 32 decimated (all belong to Division 21).

### Bach Gia province:

Regional PLAF overran 2 posts 2 km from An Hien military sector: 1 "dan ve" company written off, 28 other troops captured, 49 fire-arms seized.

### Ba Gia province:

Regional PLAF assailed Kuyen Moc military sector, wiping out the "Boo an" company defending the sector, including the company command.



THE creation of a "dual exchange rate" was decided in Saigon on October 31, 1970. It consisted in raising to the dollar official rate (118 piastres) a "dual limited rate" of 275 piastres for transactions other than those made between States.

This massive devaluation was necessary due to the deterioration of the piastre.

In fact the MPC (Military Payment Certificate) dollar fetches 350 or 400 piastres

fantastic statements of the puppet authorities who gave the following piece: "The government is aware that the new devaluation is an evil, but it is a must, just as a surgical operation is necessary for a patient. It will hurt but will cure him" (1).

Devaluation will bring in the government handsome sums of money. In all, 93 billion piastres will be collected by the Treasury, but they are incapable of filling the big budgetary gap of about 195 billion (in 1971).

Tran Thien Khien's trip to Taiwan and Japan proved unable to rapidly attract foreign investments in. As a matter of fact, no appreciable investments have been made since the carrying out of "Vietnamisation."

Necessity to say that the general discontent is at a peak. Saigon must take drastic measures to "help the economically weak strata" by a wage-lift and an encouragement to the mass party of capitals, hoping to parry the inconveniences of a

## Aspects of "Vietnamisation"

in the black market and the civilian dollar 700 piastres or more. This transaction is completely out of control of the Saigon authorities. In its Dec. 3, 1960 issue, the daily *Dau Ngu Nam* gave the following reason: "Suppose all Americans are honest—but they are never so to the point of not noticing the way their fellow-countrymen and the Vietnamese around them grow rich, let's say, quite lawfully. In fact an American having 10,000 greenbacks is not willing to exchange them at the bank at the rate of 118 piastres to a dollar when bar-keepers, pedicab-drivers, cooks, servants or other menials are ready to offer him 300 piastres. The most honest American is tempted to reckon as follows: against 10,000 greenbacks, he can obtain 3 million piastres for which he will get 20,000 red dollars (MPC) at the rate of 150 piastres a dollar. The deal earns him 1.5 million piastres, enough for him to live in clover with villa and five or six paramours for only 600,000 piastres per month. The balance or 900,000 piastres can be easily changed for red dollars with which he can buy goods at PXs and resell them in the black market and thus achieving the goal of becoming a millionaire notwithstanding his honesty."

The Saigon Finance Minister complained that "foreign militarmen royally paid in foreign currency are the root of the fantastic extension of the black market, especially around big military bases. This is harmful to the government of the Republic of Viet Nam because it deprives it of its monetary sovereignty, of a major source of foreign currencies and encourages the illegal export of private capitals."

It was to make good this deplorable state of things that a decision was taken to this end by Saigon on Oct. 3. The previous devaluation move (June 18, 1966), we still remember, had led to the present "galloping" inflation, so only little credence should be given to the

let alone the fact that the calculation may turn out to be wrong in practice.

"In 21 months inflation has resulted in a loss of 93 per cent of the value of the piastre" (*Times*, Oct. 12). After the announcement of devaluation, the leading stores closed their shops to mark up their goods. "Within 24 hours, the prices of consumer goods jumped by 15-20 per cent" (*AFP*, Oct. 6): "30 per cent for meat, 10 per cent for eggs and 70 per cent for vegetables" (*AFP*, Oct. 10). The boom will reach 40 or 50 per cent at year end" (*Reuters*, Oct. 26).

In the meantime the new official exchange rate of 275 piastres to a dollar is incapable of attracting the 100 or 200 million dollars in hole-and-corner transactions, as the black market rate is about 600 piastres to a dollar.

cost of living which is spiralling.

Let's take a closer look at the way things have happened.

The puppet State apparatus employs some 300,000 civil servants but needs a 1,012,000 million-strong army including 112,000 policemen for its own protection.

The general wage boost of 30 per cent swallows every month 3 billion piastres, or 36 billion per year. Where can this money be found?

First by an ever-increasing tax levy. The Saigon Finance Minister has announced that "since the end of October, a

(Continued page 9)

(1) Statement by Vu Duc Thu, Minister of Rehabilitation.

## Trisomy 21...

(Continued from page 1)

2,4,5-T, 2,4,5 - trichlorophenoxyacetic acid. Their experiments have shown that the products cause a very high fetal mortality rate and malformations on the survivors. Even in a very small dose, and a very short administration time, the incidence of abnormal fetuses was three times greater with the experimental mice than with the non-experimental ones. (Report of the Genetics Research Laboratories quoted by Jackie Varet in Effects of 2,4,5-T in man and the Environment, US Senate, 91st Congress, Washington).

The Washington authorities are aware of the economic of the chemical weapons researches. They want to test the chemical weapons on the South Vietnamese.

people, as they have been doing with all other weapons, planes, helicopters, bombs, shells, missiles, electronic engines. Of all these arms, the chemical weapons are the cheapest to use, they save human lives and money and yields more lasting effects.

From the time Washington was obliged to withdraw part of its troops from South Viet Nam, the chemical war has been stepped up to make up for the ineffective conventional ground war. As he does not want a change in his Viet Nam policy, Nixon flinches from no crimes.

More than ever, a stubborn struggle against US aggression is an imperative necessity for the Vietnamese people as well as the whole of mankind.